

Product Briefs



▲ **Double sink** Created by California-based designer Fu-Tung Cheng, the new Ripple Sink is imagined as a combined center for food preparation. Six feet from end to end, the left-hand bowl is a deep, 34" basin, while the right-hand, shallow sink is a 16" diameter circle for vegetable washing. Spanning the two is a drain board, providing a flat surface for cutting. Elkay Sinks & Faucets, Chicago, www.elkayusa.com

CIRCLE 212



▲ **Rammed earth** Tom Ward of Ward Blake Architects used his own home outside Jackson, Wyoming, to demonstrate his firm's innovative use of rammed earth. According to the firm, the process combines 20th-century post-tensioning steel technology with the ancient material of rammed earth – in this case, 10 percent on-site soil, 10 percent cement, and 80 percent locally sourced crusher fine (a by-product of gravel production). The result is a seismically stable version of an ancient building technology that is also aesthetically consistent with the surrounding landscape. Ward Blake Architects, Jackson, Wyo. www.wardblakearchitects.com



◀ **Green, colored linoleum** One hundred years after the introduction of linoleum in North America, Armstrong continues to innovate and advance its wide range of products. One new feature is its Color Continuum, a tonal step system that organizes the collection into a range of hues in order to easily specify a color range for any project. Armstrong linoleum also supports LEED rating systems, earning credits in several areas, including resource use and indoor air quality. Armstrong World Industries, Lancaster, Pa. www.armstrong.com

▶ **Liquid screen** Bluworld of Water's Rain Curtain is a distinctive water element that can add a mesmerizing focal point to any interior space. Water slides gently down clear mylar strands from the ceiling to a basin below. The Rain Curtain emulates both the sound and appearance of a light rain shower. As a freestanding element, there is no limit to the size the curtain can be, but ideally it should be placed in large, vertical spaces where not much structural support is needed. Bluworld of Water, Orlando. www.bluworldusa.com

CIRCLE 213



◀ **Hybrid furniture** Dutch designer Edward van Vliet designed the new Sushi Collection with a mix of Japanese forms and Moroccan overtones. Van Vliet designed both the shapes and textile patterns for the series, which includes the Donut Bench (left) and Karmacoma Sofa

(below). Textile patterns were inspired by a

variety of sources, from Japanese folklore to Spirograph drawings. The collection is constructed of flame-retardant polyurethane foam in various densities, with seating cushions in foam or goose down. Moroso USA, New York City. www.morosousa.com

CIRCLE 215



▶ **Naturally Insulated BioPCM** is an alternative insulation that uses a biobased material developed by Entropy Solutions to save energy by up to 30 percent. Made from fats and oil, these Phase Change Materials (PCMs) work by absorbing and releasing energy (heat) based on the outside temperature to regulate the inside temperature of a structure. Though PCMs aren't new, BioPCM achieves the same solutions without environmentally dangerous petroleum and chemicals. Phase Change Energy Solutions, Asheboro, N.C. www.phasechangeenergy.com

CIRCLE 217



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